

1                   **TITLE OF THE INVENTION**

2                   **ENHANCED BALLISTIC PROTECTION MATERIAL**

4                   **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5                   This patent application pertains to the provision of improved low cost bullet resistant  
6                   materials for use in architectural locations.

8                   **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

9                   The use of bullet resistant barriers to protect persons who work in violence prone arenas  
10                  against intrusions, robbery and burglary are well documented. As used in this patent application,  
11                  the term bullet resistant signifies that protection is provided against complete penetration,  
12                  passage of fragments of projectiles, or spalling (fragmentation) of the protective material to the  
13                  degree that an injury would be caused to a person who is standing directly behind the bullet  
14                  resistant barrier. Thus such establishments as a bank's teller station, check cashing counter,  
15                  certain counters and other areas in jewelry stores, and package passers all need such protection.  
16                  To be successful in the marketplace, such ballistic resistant materials must also be free of risk  
17                  from fire, electric shocking, noxious fumes to be acceptable to the marketplace.

18                  But in order to be marketable at a profit, the material must not be the subject of high  
19                  shipping costs even as it meets all of the other criteria enumerated. Bullet resistant materials are  
20                  judged according to their ability to resist penetration. Thus, Underwriters Laboratory Bulletin  
21                  #752 provides 8 Levels of resistance designated Levels 1-8 for ballistic resistant materials. On  
22                  the low end, Level 1 materials are resistant to 9mm full metal copper jacket lead core bullets,  
23                  as well as bullets from other hand guns such as the 38 Automatic. Whereas Level 6 materials  
24                  provide protection against multiple shots from a 9mm Uzi submachine gun. Level 8 materials  
25                  are resistant to 7.62 mm Rifle lead core bullets such as from the M-14 military assault rifle.

26                  One material that enjoys acceptance in the marketplace is bullet resistant fibreglass. This  
27                  material available in sheets can be incorporated into architectural products for use in bank teller  
28                  areas, court room areas including judge benches, money handling rooms such as at casinos,  
29                  cashier areas such as self-serve gas stations and convenience markets among many others. As  
30                  criminals have become bolder and more apt to have more powerful weapons, business  
31                  establishments have had to increase their levels of protection. But this comes at a cost, not just  
32                  one cost but several. The use of increased thicknesses of fibreglass rated beyond Level 1  
33                  protection comes with significant weight increases, increased shipping costs, and increased

1 installation costs due to more laborers needed to carry out the installation. These monolithic  
2 panels of fibreglass are all made from pluralities of plies of woven fibreglass impregnated with  
3 a resin a thermosetting resin, usually a polyester and then heat pressed in thicknesses ranging  
4 from  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to 1.375 inches. The more plies, the thicker the monolith panel, the heavier the panel  
5 for a given size such as 4' x 8', and the higher the level of protection available from that panel.

6 Therefore there has developed a need for finding a way to achieve a higher level of bullet  
7 resistant protection without the normally anticipated increase in weight, thickness and  
8 installation charges associated with the user of higher level individual fibreglass panels.

9 The invention accordingly comprises the device possessing the features properties and  
10 the relation of components which are exemplified in the following detailed disclosure and the  
11 scope of the application of which will be indicated in the appended claims.

12 For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention reference should be  
13 made to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying  
14 drawings.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

This invention is based upon the discovery that upper levels of ballistic protection can be had from combining a plurality of layers of lower level protection ballistic fibreglass panels in certain combinations to achieve the level of protection normally associated with a single monolithic thickness of higher level protection ballistic fibreglass.

Combinations of Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 ballistic fibreglass panels are combined together to achieve the bullet resistance of Levels 5, 6, 7, and 8 of ballistic fibreglass. By combining thicknesses to meet the Underwriters Laboratory specification of what constitutes a certain level of protection, applicant can save labor costs, time, and achieve a better installation in that the sheer physical space taken up by the armour is less than when the ballistic protection is carried out according to the prior art. This combination of lower level ballistic fibreglass must be carried out with the panels being set forth in a staggered arrangement such that the possibility of penetrating a "seam" - defined as the interface of two opposed edges of adjacent panels - all the way through the several sheets of fibreglass at this junction is avoided. As used here the word adjacent means laterally abutting as well as vertically abutting. The actual mode of abutment will be determined by the configuration of the zone of protection (protection zone). Within this protection zone, the interior thereof is the face closest to the persons being protected. In a bank the interior of the zone would be where the tellers are.

It is a first object of this invention to provide a procedure for combining sheets of lower level of protection ballistic fibreglass to achieve the level of protection associated with a thicker monolithic single sheet or panel rated at a higher level of protection.

It is a second object to provide a product that has the bullet resistant characteristics of higher level ballistic fibreglass by employing a series of lower level of protection sheets of ballistic fibreglass in architectural environments.

It is a third object of this invention to provide a mode of installing ballistic fibreglass armour without the need for fibreglass battens, thereby diminishing the space occupied by the armour.

It is a fourth object to provide a labor cost saving method of achieving high levels of ballistic protection.

It is a fifth object to provide a freight cost saving method of achieving high levels of ballistic protection from ballistic fibreglass.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and will in part appear hereinafter.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a prior art wall installation of ballistic fibreglass.

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the mode of installation of ballistic fibreglass according to the prior art.

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the installation of ballistic fibreglass according to this invention.

FIGURE 4 is a top plan view of the mode of installation of ballistic fibreglass according to this invention.

FIGURE 5 is a top plan view showing the lay-up of three lower level layers of fibreglass according to this invention to reach a ballistic Level 4 of protection.

FIGURE 6 is a top plan view showing the lay-up of three lower level layers of fibreglass according to this invention to reach a ballistic Level 4 of protection.

FIGURE 7 is a top plan view showing the lay-up of five lower level layers of fibreglass according to this invention to reach a ballistic Level 5 and above of protection.

FIGURE 8 is a top plan view showing the lay-up of four lower level layers of fibreglass according to this invention to reach a ballistic Level 5 and above of protection.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In order to protect certain types of workers, as our society has become more violent, businesses have turned to ballistic protection materials. It is deemed business-wise inappropriate for workers to have to wear a bullet proof vest to do a job such as a bank teller, check cashier or to work at a gas station collecting cash payments. Therefore, other modes of safeguarding the lives of certain workers prone to violence have arisen. One such mode is the installation of ballistic protective walls. Such installations are used in certain retail environments and in highly strategic business environments. More often than not, the casual viewer is unable to discern the presence of ballistic protection. Of course, the retail customer can see the special glass or acrylic installed at an installation, where viewing of persons on the opposite side of a boundary is necessary. But customers cannot discern the presence of armaments behind the gypsum wall disposed from counter height to the floor. Typical of such installations are judge benches, guard stations, safe rooms, hotel lobby areas, convenience stores, hospitals, fast food outlets etc., where the mental temperament of persons entering is unknown, or the handling of money takes place.

Different degrees of protection have been established and indeed Underwriters Laboratory (hereinafter UL) has established standards for various degrees of protection. Thus resistance by a wall to a bullet from a 45mm gun is at a lower level than if the wall could not be penetrated by shots from a high-powered rifle. These differences are designated as Levels of Protection.

Thus, a UL Level 1 armament is supposed to be impenetrable by a 9mm 124 gr. lead shell, while a UL Level 3 zone of protection requires resistance to a .44 MAG 240 grain shell, and a UL Level 4 zone protects against a .30 caliber shell as used in high-powered rifles. The higher the UL level the more resistant is the armour material.

\* \* \* \*

For the purposes of this discussion, it is to be assumed and it is known in the prior art that the higher the level of ballistic protection associated with a sheet of ballistic fibreglass the thicker it will be. Ofttimes, the word panel is applied to these thicker sheets of fibreglass. It is known to the art that in order to achieve a Level 5 ballistic protection for example, according to the standard defined by Underwriters Laboratory, a series of ballistic tests must be carried out such that the predefined type of bullets do not penetrate a panel of ballistic fibreglass of a predefined thickness. Thus, to achieve Level 5 protection, a single panel of fibreglass (having multiple plies), which weighs 432 lbs., need to resist a set number of a specific bullet fired at the single sheet of fibreglass. The same is true for Level 8. This single sheet of Level 8 ballistic

1       fibreglass, in a standard 4' x 8' size, weighs approximately 464 lbs. Thus, the benefits of this  
2       invention are readily seen. For any given architectural protected zone installation a plurality of  
3       these single panels of Level 5 or Level 8 fibreglass are installed adjacent to each other in a line  
4       by a work crew.

5       Therefore, for almost all installations such as, banks, check cashing locations, and other  
6       protected areas, it is necessary to abut a plurality of sheets adjacent to each other in a row to form  
7       the architectural protection zone of the particular establishment since sheets come mainly in a  
8       4' x 8' configuration. Of course, other sheet sizes are available but to a lesser degree such as,  
9       3' x 8', 4' x 9', and 4' x 10'. For aesthetics, the protection zone is usually overlaid at least on the  
10       face toward customers and sometimes with overlays on both faces of the armoured area with  
11       common building materials such as, sheet rock and paint, wood paneling or high pressure  
12       laminate such as Formica®. Unfortunately, none of these overlaid materials provide any ballistic  
13       resistance and thus are classified as decorative only.

14       For example, the area to be protected may have a linear frontage of approximately  
15       twelve feet which would require three four foot wide vertical sheets to be placed side by side.  
16       The problem arises that a shooter could fire bullets that would be aimed intentionally or  
17       unintentionally at the junction between any two adjacent sheets. Such bullets would pass through  
18       the junction of the abutted fibreglass sheets. Therefore, the prior art practice that has been used  
19       as per FIGURE 1 is to use a batten of the same level of protection behind the two multi-ply  
20       abutted fibreglass sheets. Therefore, should a shooter be able to accidentally or purposely pass  
21       his/her bullets right between the junction of two adjacent sheets, the level of protection would  
22       still be obtained because the bullets would be stopped by the batten that is disposed behind and  
23       along the seam of the abutted sheets. See FIGURE 1 wherein 10 represents a prior installation  
24       of abutted panels 11 to a batten 13. The monolith is constructed of a plurality of plies 12 of the  
25       resin impregnated fibreglass. Designator 22 signifies each of the conventional screws of the  
26       industry used to secure the adjacent panels to the batten of the same level of protection. Battens  
27       13 are made of fibreglass.

28       In FIGURE 2, a prior art installation of ballistic fibreglass protection is again illustrated.  
29       Here a thick monolithic panel 11 weighing over 400 lbs. is seen to be attached to the battens 13  
30       with a stud 17 disposed behind the batten 13. Another known mode of stud placement is shown  
31       by the presence of stud 17A which is disposed lateral to the batten 13 instead of behind the batten  
32       13.

33       Applicant has found that by abutting sequentially a plurality of sheets of a lower level

1 protection ballistic fibreglass, in various combinations of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3, and  
2 staggering the disposition of the plurality of horizontal sheets from layer to layer as far as  
3 placement is concerned, that the desired level, be it Level 4, 5, 7 or 8, but not Level 6 protection,  
4 can be achieved. In conjunction with the staggering of the placement of the individual lower  
5 level sheets, the penetration of bullets that might ordinarily pass through each sheet individually  
6 does not pass through a series of superposed sheets where the sum of thicknesses of the plurality  
7 equals or exceeds the thickness of the respective individual monolithic panel rated for the same  
8 level of protection. This is true at any point on the multi-sheet wall including the adjacent edge  
9 abutment of two sheets of the ballistic fibreglass.

10 Therefore, applicant has been able to do away with the necessity of using a batten behind  
11 the plurality of sheets of lower level ballistic fibreglass that are sequentially stacked to achieve  
12 the higher level of ballistic protection. The ability to carefully aim bullets or inadvertently aim  
13 bullets to pass through the abutted junction of two adjacent sheets of ballistic fibreglass, in order  
14 to penetrate into the protection zone, has been eliminated since the bullet could only pass  
15 between the first layer of abutted sheets since the seam - as defined previously elsewhere-  
16 laterally speaking and not through the second layer along the length of the wall.

17 Thus the invention concept is demonstrated in FIGURE 3 by wall 30, where two panels  
18 31 and 32, each having a plurality of plies (unnumbered separately) but with the concept of the  
19 plies represented by the dashed lines, are shown in a staggered formation. The first or front layer  
20 has a multiplicity of sheets 31 abutted at locations 35, while the sheets 32 in the interior  
21 disposition are abutted at locations 34. The rectangular elongated member 37 shown in FIGURE  
22 3 is not a batten, but is the wood 2' x 4' used in forming the structure of the building and which  
23 is fastened directly to the ballistic panels.

24 A bullet, when fired at exactly the junction of the front two adjacent ballistic sheets of  
25 an installation of stacked sheets, would slow down adequately such that the subsequent sheets  
26 would serve to prevent the penetration into the protected zone. The protection afforded would  
27 be the same if one stood directly behind a location of an area within the middle of the front lower  
28 level sheet as at the junction of two adjacent lower level sheets. The stopping ability of the  
29 remaining staggered lower level sheets thus prevents the penetration.

30 From a top plan perspective reference is made to FIGURE 2, which is also a prior art  
31 depiction. Here the monolithic thick multi-ply panel 11 is seen to be faced with plywood 15. The  
32 ballistic panel 11 is secured at the seam of two adjacent panels to battens 13, which in turn are  
33 attached to building structural members such as studs, 17.

1                   Compare FIGURE 2 to FIGURE 4 which is a diagrammatic illustration of this invention.  
2                   This figure is used to illustrate the concept of the invention and is not representative of an actual  
3                   permutation of any specific level of ballistic protection according to this invention. Here three  
4                   different layers of discrete lower level of protections sheets designated 41, 42, and 43 are placed  
5                   end to end in a staggered pattern, with the respective layer's seams designated as 44, 45 and 46  
6                   being off set relative to each other. The top most layer is again a decorative layer such as  
7                   gypsum board 15, while the lowermost is the structural stud 47. It can be seen that the additive  
8                   thickness of 41, 42, 43 is substantially the same as or greater than the single monolithic thick  
9                   panel 11, and as such it is anticipated that the protection level from the installation of FIGURE  
10                  4 will be the same as that of the single panel 11 of FIGURE 3. The provision exists however that  
11                  each of the individual fibreglass sheets is a UL listed ballistic resistant sheet for the specific level  
12                  of protection recited.

13                  \*\*\*\*\*

14                  It is to be understood that for the purposes of the discussion of FIGURES 5 through 8,  
15                  that layer 15, the gypsum wall or other decorative material such as paneling, is on the outside of  
16                  the protected zone. It is also to be assumed that designator 47 may be a metal or wood stud, and  
17                  that only one of such is shown in the figures for simplicity. It is further to be assumed that for  
18                  cosmetic purposes, an interior non-ballistic resistant layer will more than likely be interposed  
19                  between in the innermost layer of ballistic material and the studs 47. But again for simplicity  
20                  such is not shown.

21                  The reader is now directed to FIGURE 5 which is a graphic illustration of another  
22                  example according to this invention. Here, the wall of protection 50, is three layers of UL listed  
23                  Level 2 ballistic resistant fibreglass, designated 51, 52, and 53. These are physically placed in  
24                  a staggered format as shown and screwed to studs 47, usually at 16 to 24 inches on centre  
25                  spacings. The combined thickness of these Level 2 rated sheets is 21/16. The level of protection  
26                  achieved here is Level 4. In contrast a single Level 4 UL listed monolithic panel is 19/16 inches  
27                  thick.

28                  In FIGURE 6, it was desired to achieve a protection level of Level 5 by wall 60. The  
29                  thickness of a UL listed Level 5 panel is 1.375 or 22/16 inches. To achieve this level, three  
30                  sheets were screwed in staggered fashion to the studs. The three individual panels are designated  
31                  61, 62, and 63 respectively and are Level 2 #2, Level 2 #1 and the most interior sheet is a Level  
32                  3 rated sheet. Since like numbers refer to like parts, 15 and 47 refer to the outside the zone  
33                  decorative wall material and the interior studs. Each Level 2 sheet is 7/16 inches thick and the

1      Level 3 sheet has a thickness of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. The combined thickness therefore is 22/16. It has been  
2      found that if a combination of different levels of protection sheets are used to achieve a higher  
3      level of protection that the higher level sheets should be used closer to the interior of the  
4      protected zone. Thus, as shown in this figure. The Level 3 sheet is the innermost layer. Ballistic  
5      testing confirms that the needed resistance to match that of a monolithic panel can only be  
6      obtained when the higher level sheet(s) is placed interiorly.

7      FIGURE 7 illustrates another combination of a multiplicity of staggered sheets, 70. Here  
8      five sheets of UL Level 1 rated ballistic fibreglass each having a nominal thickness of 5/16 and  
9      designated 71through 75 are stacked in a staggered formation as aforesaid for attachment to the  
10     stud 47. A UL Level 4 of protection would be achieved, since a Level 4 panel is 1.375 or 24/16  
11     inches thick.

12     FIGURE 8 illustrates yet another Level 4 zone of protection, 80. Here 2 Level 1s and 2  
13     Level 2s are used and being designated 81through 84 interiorly to exteriorly. Each Level 1 being  
14     5/16 inches thick. Each Level 2 having a nominal thickness of 7/16. A total thickness of 24/16  
15     should provide the protection of a single Level 4 panel as well. Note again that the higher level  
16     panels are positioned toward the interior.

17                          \*\*\*\*

18     The following shooting data illustrates the fact that Level 5 protection can be achieved  
19     by the use of the staggered placement of a plurality of sheets of the various lower levels of  
20     protection with the caveat that lower levels are disposed forwardly toward the exterior of the  
21     protected zone formed from these combinations of sheets of Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 UL  
22     listed ballistic fibreglass as are recited in the specific examples.

23                          Example 1:

24     Level 5 protection requires that the substrate be resistant to 1 shot of a 7.62 mm rifle lead  
25     core full metal copper jacket shell, mil ball, discharged at a velocity of 2750fps. When a  
26     plurality of sheets of ballistic fibreglass the sum of whose thicknesses equal or exceed the  
27     thickness required of a monolithic single sheet of Level 5 ballistic fibreglass were placed  
28     sequentially in a staggered position such that one seam was never directly behind a second  
29     abutted seam and the weapon of choice was fired in accordance with the predefined standard to  
30     achieve Level 5 protection at the series of sequentially stacked and staggered sheets of fibreglass,  
31     penetration was not achieved and the person who would have been behind the rear most sheet  
32     would not have been hurt by the firing of the weapon.

33                          Example 2:

The test for Level 8 protection requirement is the same as Level 5 but for five shots not one. When a series of lower level protection ballistic fibreglass sheets, all within the range of Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3, were placed in predefined combinations conceived to achieve a certain level of protection based upon the sum of the thicknesses of the plurality of panels matched to the thickness of a known single monolithic layer rated for a specific level of ballistic protection; and were placed in a staggered position such that no two abutted sheets were directly behind each other but the abutments were staggered, it was found that the zone of protection was maintained when the weapon of choice of the UL standard was fired at the stacked sheets of ballistic fibreglass.

In the creation of Tables 1 and 2, a comparison was made of the sum of the thicknesses of the various combinations of UL listed Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 ballistic fibreglass versus the thickness of a monolithic single panel of the desired protection level. In Table 1 that level is Level 5. The numbers in the respective Level's column corresponds to the number of sheets of the respective level to be overlaid to achieve the desired level of protection, Level 5, Level 7 and Level 8, as noted in the far right column of Table 1, and the achievement of protection of UL listed Level 4 in Table 2.

1 TABLE 1

2 In the table set forth below, ballistic resistance to Level 5 previously defined, Level 8  
 3 previously defined, and Level 7 which is the ability to resist five shots from a 5.56 mm rifle full  
 4 metal copper jacket with lead core having forty-four grains and a velocity of 3080fps, were all  
 5 achieved by the overlaying of the recited number of sheets of Levels 1, 2, and 3 of UL listed  
 6 ballistic fibreglass in an offset pattern as discussed herein. A significant saving of time, shipping  
 7 weight, and cost were achieved.

9	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	THICKNESS	EQUIVALENT LEVEL OF PROTECTION
10		2	1	22/16 OR 1.38	5, 7
11	5			25/16 OR 1.56	8
12	4			20/16 OR 1.25	5, 7
13	2	2		24/16 OR 1.50	8
14	3	1		22/16 OR 1.38	5, 7
15	1	1	1	21/16 OR 1.31	<u>20/16 (less)</u>
16	2		1	<u>19/16 OR 1.19</u>	<u>18/16 (less)</u>
17		1	2	<u>23/16 OR 1.56</u>	<u>23/16 (less)</u>
18	1		2	21/16 OR 1.31	5
19		3		21/16 OR 1.31	5
20			3	24/16	8

1 TABLE 2  
2

3 The concept of this invention can also be applied to achieve a Level 5 of ballistic  
4 protection. It should be understood that both a Level 4 and a Level 5 resistant sheet of ballistic  
5 fibreglass are of the same nominal thickness of 22/16. Level 4 requires resistance to a single shot  
6 from a .30 caliber rifle lead core soft pont bullet with 180 grains fired at 2540 fps. Level 5 is  
more stringent.

7 Table 2 recites various permutations of combinations of the recited number of sheets of  
8 UL rated Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 ballistic fibreglass to achieve at least Level 5 protection.  
9 Here as with Table 1, savings were achieved due to fewer number of installers needed due to  
10 lesser weight per panel, lower shipping charges, and ready availability of materials, yet the same  
11 level of protection was obtained as with a single monolithic panel of Level 5 material.

12 TABLE 2  
13

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	THICKNESS	EQUIVALENT LEVEL OF PROTECTION
5			25/16 or 1.56	8
4			20/16 or 1.25	5,7
2	2		24/16 or 1.50	8
3	1		22/16 or 1.38	5,7
1	1	1	20/16 or 1.25	5,7
2		1	<u>19/16 or 1.19</u>	<u>18/16 (less)</u>
	1	2	23/16 or 1.43	8
1		2	21/16 or 1.31	5
	3		21/16 or 1.31	5,7

24 In Tables 1 and 2, the comparisons made of combinations of sheets of UL listed Levels  
25 1, 2 & 3 ballistic fibreglass were made against higher level monolithic panels of the same  
26 manufacturer, designated MAKER A who uses his own proprietary process for manufacturing  
27 the individual sheets and panels.

28 When a testing program was run using sheets of UL listed ballistic fibreglass of MAKER  
29 B, and the sum of the various thickness combinations were checked against monolithic panels  
30 of the same manufacturer, namely MAKER B similar results of achievement of higher levels of  
31 protection were obtained. It is to be noted however, that due to the fact that MAKER B  
32 apparently uses a different formulation and/or processing procedure for his sheet and panel

1 manufacture, that MAKER B can achieve the test results needed to obtain UL listings at the  
2 respective levels for his sheets and panels even though his nominal thicknesses are smaller than  
3 the nominal thicknesses of MAKER A.

4 In conclusion therefore, it is seen that the concept of this invention that the sum of  
5 thicknesses from staggered placement of lower level UL listed ballistic fibreglass to match the  
6 higher protection levels of heavy monolithic sheets can only be made within the reference  
7 framework of the same manufacturer of the sheets and panels.

8 For example it was found that seven staggered sheets of MAKER B's Level 1 listed  
9 product had a nominal thickness of 21/16, yet it achieved the same performance of the Level 8  
10 product of this manufacturer which is also 21/16 inches thick. In contrast, MAKER A's Level  
11 8 listed product is 23/16 inches thick, for Level 8 and 7 sheets of Level 1 would be 35/16 inches  
12 thick

13 This is again borne out by the fact that three sheets of Level 3 of MAKER B is 21/16  
14 inches thick and achieved a Level 8 protection level, while three sheets of MAKER A's product  
15 are 24/16 inches thick.

16 Little discussion has been set forth about Level 4 of protection. Panels of monolith of UL  
17 listed Level 4 are 1.375 inches thick for one manufacturer, which coincides with the thickness  
18 of that company's Level 5 product. The distinction being that the ballistic resistance for Level  
19 4 is one .30 caliber bullet, but for Level 5 it is one 7.62mm full metal jacket military bullet. From  
20 a practical point of view, manufacturers do not distinguish between Level 4 and Level 5 panels.  
21 In the same spirit, the ballistic requirements for Level 6 are greater than those of Level 2, but the  
22 nominal thickness of both panels is the same for any one manufacturer.

23 \*\*\*\*

24 The staggering of the sheets overlaid, for the tables above and in actual use in particular,  
25 is generally set at sixteen to twenty-four inches apart because this is the spacing used in the  
26 creation of walls behind which persons work in that wood joists or steel joists are commonly  
27 placed sixteen to twenty-four inches apart. The actual choice of the staggered distance apart is  
28 determined at the time of the implementation of the protection zone. The reader is advised that  
29 in most situations ballistic fibreglass is applied to walls rather than directly to furniture such as  
30 desks or bookcases.

31 However, furniture such as desks and bookcases can be protected in like manner. The  
32 wood of the furniture, the wood of the joist or the steel of the joist, behind any wallboard  
33 (gypsum board) offers zero ballistic protection. Reference is made therefore to FIGURE 4, which

1 shows a series of ballistic fibreglass sheets 41, 42, and 43 disposed upon the framing 47 of a  
2 room with standard gypsum board 15 disposed in front of the ballistic fibreglass to hide the fact  
3 that a zone of protection exists. This would be the construction utilized in a typical self-serve  
4 gas station where the attendant would be standing behind a protected counter. The clear bullet  
5 resistant glass would extend from the height of the counter to the ceiling. Such an installation  
6 can also be used at a bank or check cashing agency. If this was a special executive office the  
7 layers, shown in FIGURE 4, would extend from floor to ceiling.

8 The contrast between the mode of installation of this invention and the prior art modes  
9 of FIGURE 2, seen in top view and previously discussed, also is readily seen. The layers again  
10 constitute 15 the gypsum board; 11 is the monolithic panel of the ballistic fibreglass, 14 is the  
11 batten of fibreglass, and 17 is the wood framing of the room. The actual depth used by the prior  
12 art may be significantly larger and invade the usable space of the room depending on the mode  
13 of installation.

14 All fibreglass panels are held in a face to face relationship by fasteners such as 22 seen  
15 in FIGURES 1 and 3. A quite suitable fastener is a wafer head coated steel screws. These are  
16 available in the marketplace from various vendors.

1 It is seen that there has been disclosed a new technique for reducing the cost of  
2 installation of ballistic fibreglass protection zones as compared to the costs associated with the  
3 installation of monolithic thick panels. While both the monolithic panels and the sheets are made  
4 of multi-plies, sheets require fewer people to move and to install them due to significantly lower  
5 weight. Thus, time is saved, storage space for the installer is saved, freight costs are reduced due  
6 to less handling, yet the protection level achievable by staggered combining of a particular  
7 manufacturer's UL listed lower level products to achieve the desired higher levels of protection  
8 can be obtained.

9            Since certain changes may be made in the described apparatus without departing from the  
10      scope of the invention herein involved, it is intended that all matter contained in the above  
11      description and shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not  
12      in a limiting sense